REPORT ON THE BOTANICAL AND FORESTRY DEPARTMENT HONGKONG FOR THE YEAR 1921.

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General Remarks.

Typhoon signals were hoisted six times during the year, but fortunately the damage resulting from the proximity of typhoons and rainstorms was very slight in comparison with many previous years.

During the first quarter of the year, rain fell on 21 days amounting to 6·22 inches.

In the second quarter, the rainfall amounted to 53·10 inches on 51 days. This delayed a considerable amount of gardening work and spoiled a large amount of flowering plants, but was favourable to forestry operations generally.

During the third quarter of the year the rainfall was moderate and in 42 days, amounted to 45·60 inches.

The last quarter was exceptionally dry, the rainfall being 2·91 inches only.

Botanic Gardens.—During the first quarter a few young plants of *Magnolia conspicuus* and *Magnolia obovata* were planted in suitable places in both gardens, these if successful should make a good show of white and purple flowers.

Owing to the long period of wet weather in the second quarter, the planting of summer annuals on the lower terrace had to be delayed till much later than usual.

On a grass bank at the west end of the Old Garden, several improved varieties of Hydrangea were planted amongst the red Azaleas.

A very large number of herbaceous plants and flowering shrubs, which are not ordinarily watered by artificial means, had to be watered almost every day during the last two months of the year.

In the early part of the year, the two iron gates which formerly stood some distance inside the upper and lower entrances to the New Garden from Glenealy were taken down and reerected at the extreme ends of the entrances, this has had the effect of checking petty thefts and damage to plants which formerly had to be protected by other and more expensive means.

All Orchids in the plant houses in the Old Garden were re-arranged and a large number of them relabelled.

Cuttings of various kinds of shrubs and creepers were made and layers of Roses and *Bauhinia Blakeana* were also taken for departmental use and for sale.

The potting of ferns in the plant houses and the division of Bamboo Palms (*Chrysalidocarpus lutescens*) in the Loan Plant Compound was totally completed in May.

There is still a great demand for Bamboo Palms and as many as could be spared from stock were sold.

The Hongkong Horticultural Show was held for one day only on March 2nd in the Botanic Gardens. Exhibits of both flowers and vegetables were good but less than those of the previous year.

In connection with road alterations the wall at the south-east corner of the Old Garden was pulled down and reerected by the Public Works Department.

A small area of garden was accordingly lost and a fine specimen of *Ficus elastica* had to be sacrificed.

A fine hedge of Chrysalidocarpus standing at the top of the wall had to be removed and planted elsewhere, another hedge of the same palm was planted immediately after the reerection of the wall.

Cannas in beds and shrubberries were rooted up, divided, manured and replanted as usual.

All growths of Alpinias, which had finished flowering, were cut out from rockeries and numerous shady banks.

Two young trees of *Poinciana regia* were planted in the Loan Plant Compound to replace the one which was blown down in the preceeding year and which always afforded a very beneficial partial shade to the pot plants stored there.

The turf on a plot below the aviary, which had become very uneven owing to a slight subsidence, was taken up and relaid after the ground had been properly levelled.

The Upper and Lower Terraces in the Old Garden were treated with "Cha Chai" on rainy days several times during the year, large quantities of earthworms which were damaging the turf were collected and destroyed.

All the Rose bushes were given a heavy dressing of old stable manure in October.

At the request of the Hongkong Horticultural Society, notes on general gardening works were supplied to editors of local newspapers for publication in September and October.

During the year numerous permits were issued to artist to sketch or paint and to photographers to take photographs in the Botanic Gardens.

Collectors' permits were issued to a number of visiting botanists to enable them to collect wild plant specimens in the Colony.

The specimen trees of *Spathodea nilotica*, which were raised from seeds in 1909 and planted in the following year, flowered for the first time in the Gardens.

The seed of this tree was introduced from East Africa, and for some years the young trees suffered badly from the cold weather; they now appear to have become acclimatised.

"Grass Caterpillars" did not make their appearance on any of the lawns during the year, very probably owing to the weather conditions being unsuitable to the moth which is said to be responsible for this most destructive pest.

Three persons were arrested and fined at the Police Court for damaging plants in the Gardens.

The total number of plants sold during the year was 1,589, a large proportion of this number being *Adiantum cuneatum* (Maidenhair Fern). There is a constant demand for *Chrysalidocarpus lutescens*, (Bamboo Palms) but the number available for sale each year is now small owing to the extensive use by this Department of this Palm in hedges and general planting in various parts of the Colony.

Government House Grounds.—In connection with the building alterations and additions to the house the tennis lawn and two large clumps of Bamboo Palms on the north-west side of the ground were entirely removed; a very fine specimen of the Traveller's Tree (*Ravenala madagascariensis*) which was too large for removal had to be cut down.

The whole of the creeper fence, which formerly screened part of the house, was removed and a number of small specimens of *Camellia japonica* were taken up and transplanted elsewhere.

A small area of ground not occupied by the new building was relaid with turf.

The decomposed granite walks in front of the house, which were formerly maintained by this Department, were taken over by the Public Works Department.

All lawns were treated with "Cha Chai" and large quantities of earthworms collected and destroyed.

A large bed of flowering shrubs near the stable block was removed to allow of the erection of other buildings.

"Grass Caterpillars" did not appear on either of the grass lawns during the year.

Undergrowth on the north bank was cleared twice during the year.

The pruning of shrubs and replanting of Cannas was proceeded with throughout the year.

A specimen tree *Spathodea nilotica*, which was planted in the grounds about twelve years ago, produced a fine show of flowers for the first time.

The interior of the house was decorated with pot plants, Banian festoons, Adiantums and hanging baskets of flowers on the occasion of H. M. The King's Birthday on June 3rd and the visit of H. I. H. the Crown Prince of Japan on March 31st.

Mountain Lodge Grounds.—Undergrowth in the valley and elsewhere was cleared as usual.

In the month of May, the Hydrangeas which are the largest in the Colony, made a very fine show of varying shades of pink and blue flowers.

All grass lawns were regularly cut, rolled, weeded and dressed with "Cha Chai" at intervals, the usual heavy dressing of fine stable manure was given in February.

All Cannas in beds were taken up, heavily manured and replanted.

Iris tectorum flowered well in the valley adjoining the stream during January.

Blake Garden. Patches of blue grass, which had died out in the preceeding year, were repaired with fresh plants.

All the Agaves, which formed a hedge on the east side of the garden, were rooted out and a strong barbed wire fence put up in their place.

Other Agaves, which had finished flowering, were cut out and destroyed.

Long grass on banks was cut regularly and the garden kept in order generally.

Creepers planted on the wire fences inside the garden have now become well established and made a good show while in flower.

All the flowering shrubs were pruned and the soil about them loosened.

King's Park.—Long grass, Mimosa and Lantana seedlings were cut by gangs of women working under the supervision of the park-keeper. This work was again completed without cost to this Department, a large proportion of the grass cut which is suitable for cattle fodder being given to the gangs in lieu of cash payment.

Throughout the whole year, all the trees which have been planted at various times since the Park was formed were re-tied and re-staked.

One person was prosecuted and convicted for allowing cattle to graze and do damage in the park.

Colonial Cemetery.—A site above the plant house was cleared and the building of the new gardeners' quarters was commenced during the latter part of the year by the Public Works Department.

Long grass in various parts of the cemetery was cut regularly during the summer months.

Seeds of summer and winter annuals were sown for growing in pots and planting in beds.

A newly levelled terrace on the south side of the cemetery was covered with turf and the steep bank above it planted with flowering shrubs and creepers.

A large plot above the fountain was opened up by the Public Works Department and the boulders removed, a number of flowering trees had to be removed to allow this work to proceed, when completed the plot was levelled and turfed.

The flowering trees and shrubs and foliage plants were pruned as required and others planted on various grass plots and banks.

Thefts of branches of *Biota orientalis*, which were very prevalent last year, have now ceased.

Other Grounds.—To make room for the additional building near the lower entrance to the Government Civil Hospital, several large Aleurites and Banian trees were cut out and a large area of Blue Grass removed.

At the beginning of October, small number of caterpillars made their appearance on the two grass lawns; these were immediately treated with a solution of Jeye's Fluid and soon disappeared, the damage being very slight.

Earthworms, which usually are very numerous, did not give much trouble this year.

Bare patches on banks were repaired with Blue Grass from time to time.

Ficus on walls and Bamboo hedges were clipped several times during the year.

Seedling annuals and other plants were regularly supplied from the Botanic Gardens for use in pots and beds in various parts of the grounds.

The Lunatic Asylum grounds were kept tidy throughout the year.

Pot plants were supplied for use on the verandahs of the Sisters' Quarters.

Cannas and Hedychiums in the Albany Nurseries were taken up, divided and replanted after the ground had been well manured.

The iron railings of the Upper Albany Nursery along Garden Road were damaged by motor-cars on May 23rd and December 16th. On both occasions they were repaired at the expense of this Department.

In the Victoria Hospital Ficus creepers growing on the balustrades were cut away to enable the Public Works Department to proceed with general repairs.

Part of the tennis lawn being required by the Public Works Department in connection with the building of the new wing, the best of the turf was removed and many flowering shrubs had to be transplanted.

The laying out of the old irregularly shaped beds in the Sukunpo Vegetable Garden was proceeded with.

A constant supply of winter and summer vegetables was grown and supplied to Government House daily.

The Honolulu creepers (*Antigonon leptopus*) and the *Clerodendron splendens* grown on the barbed wire fences surrounding the vegetable garden produced large mass of flowers, which were cut during the season and used in the decoration of the interior of Government House.

On the cricket pitch of the Hongkong Cricket Ground, portions of the turf, which had been badly damaged during the cricket matches were removed and renewed after every match, at the conclusion of the season, the whole of the actual playing pitches was returfed, the whole of the work being carried out at the expense of the Cricket Club.

Several patches of worn-out turf on the two lawns at the Indian School Grounds were repaired, the trees in the grounds pruned and a supply of pot plants maintained.

On the grass bank of the Children's Playground on the Peak, a number of flowering shrubs were planted to replace those which had died from various causes.

Grass plots in the Government Pavilions and Villas were cut and kept in good order generally, and the soil round the plants on the banks loosened.

The spare soil from an adjoining block of Government building was dumped in the Peak Garden which until the completion of dumping will not be available for public use.

The Hydrangeas on the banks and other parts of the garden were removed and transplanted elsewhere. The turf was removed by the contractor in charge of the soil dump and will later be renewed at his expense.

Grass lawns in the Subordinate Officers' Quarters, Breezy Point, were regularly cut and kept in order generally. Turf in the shady parts of the front lawn was renewed as required.

The privet hedge and the grass plot in the Volunteer Parade Ground were kept in good order generally throughout the year.

Rockeries and Blue Grass plots at the St. John's Cathedral Compound were planted up in February and small repairs carried out from time to time. This work was paid for by the Church Body.

In the Royal Observatory Grounds, a small area of Blue Grass, west of the main building was cleared to make room for the quarters which are being erected.

A regular supply of seedling annuals and other plants from the Botanic Gardens was maintained throughout the year.

Trees near the plant compound were thinned as required.

At the completion of the British School playground extension, Kowloon, several flowering shrubs were planted to replace those which had been destroyed in the Royal Observatory Grounds during the progress of the work.

Grass plots in the Children's Playground, Kowloon, were cut and weeded.

Caterpillars in small numbers made their appearance on the grass plots in the Statue Square Garden in the month of October, but disappeared a few days later. The lawns were cut and weeded as required.

Grass bank and plot and flowering shrubs at the Helena May Institute were regularly inspected and attended to as required.

In West End Park the long grass was regularly cut and Mimosa seedling rooted out.

A large number of Agaves were planted, these will ultimately replace the barbed wire fences which are at present very necessary but do not improve the general appearance of the Park.

The plot in front of the Hongkong Club was required for use as a site for a reception pavilion to be used on the occasion of the visit of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, consequently all the turf, flowering shrubs and trees had to be removed.

These trees and shrubs were replanted alongside the roads in various parts of the Colony.

The grounds of the District Officer's Quarters at Taipo were placed under this Department during the year.

All the trees and shrubs which required it were pruned, staked and tied, a line of Camphor and Eucalyptus was planted near the entrance gate.

Undergrowth on the banks was cleared twice during the year.

The lawns were regularly machined, rolled, weeded and top-dressed.

At the Rest House, Taipo, the turf on the old lawn, which had deteriorated, was removed, the soil was levelled and the whole area relaid with good turf.

Herbarium.

The number of plant specimens mounted during the year amounted to 797, of these 641 were from Kwang Tung Province, 54 from Kwai Chau and 102 from Australia.

100 Australian specimens were presented by Mr. H. M. Maiden, I.S.O., F.R.S., F.L.S. of the Botanic Gardens, Sydney.

All specimens in cabinets were sun-dried, brushed and re-poisoned.

Eighteen new books were added to the Library and these and all others were regularly inspected and re-poisoned as required.

Parts of plants sent in by the Government Analyst were identified, also many local specimens of medicinal herbs and other plants were named for local and other collectors.

Forestry.

Formation of Pine Tree Plantations.—At Kowloon Tsai 2,500 one year old trees of Pinus *Pinus Massoniana* were planted.

On the hills between Cheung Sha Wan and the Taipo Road, 50,000 sites were sown with Pine seeds.

All sites in which seeds had failed to germinate at Cheung Chau and Fan Ling were re-sown with Pine seeds: altogether 45 lbs. of seeds were used.

294 lbs. of Pine seed was sown broadcast on grass bank above and below roads at the following places, Taipo Road, Tsin Wan Road, Chai Wan Gap to Tytam, Tytam to Stanley, Stanley Road, Findlay Road, Lugard Road, Saikung Gap to Ha Chau Gap and roads on Cheung Chau.

On the grass slopes below Severn Road 394 one year old trees of *Pinus Massoniana* were planted.

Broad-leaved Trees Planted.—In the vicinity of Aberdeen Reservoir, 186 young trees of "Jak" (*Artocarpus integrifolia*) were planted.

185 Tristania and 45 Eucalyptus were planted on grass banks below Severn Road.

The trees used for roadside planting were principally Camphor, Tristania, Albizzia, Melaleuca, Poinciana, Ficus, Aleurites and Bauhinia, these were used at the following places, Tytam Road 20, Shaukiwan Road 12, Shaukiwan to Tytam 59, Bowen Road 2, Pokfulam Road 2, Barker Road 6, Plantation Road 13, Conduit Road 2, Albany Road 2, Nathan Road 46, Mody Road 3, Taipo Road 422, Tsin Wan Road 738, and 24 near the market on the Shum-Shui-Po reclamation.

Trees Removed.—In connection with general improvements to and widening of roads in various parts of the Colony, large shade trees had to be felled at the following places Queen's Road, East 9; Arsenal Street 2; Caine Road 4; Eastern Street 2; Pokfulam Road 1.

At Taipo Police Station a number of large specimens of Tristania, which were entirely shutting out the view of the railway station and the adjoining public road, were removed.

In connection with extensions at Kowloon and Yaumati Reservoirs and the formation of the site for new cemeteries at Fo Pang Hang numbers of *Pinus Massoniana* had to be removed from the adjoining plantations.

At the top of the earth banks of the reclamation at Aplichau a large number of Camphors, Pines and Tristania had to be felled to allow for the removal of earth and to prevent landslides.

Very large numbers of Pine and other trees were removed from building sites in all parts of the Colony.

Care of Trees in Plantations.—Insect pests were fortunately much less troublesome than during the preceding year; the Pine Tree Caterpillar made its appearance in small numbers only at Fan Ling, these were immediately collected and destroyed.

Creepers on Pine and other trees in Hongkong and the New Territories were continuously cut and removed.

Pine seedlings in pits, which are raised from seed sown in sufficient numbers to allow of the germination of 5 seeds to one pit, were regularly inspected and where found to be too thick the weakest were cut out.

White Ants, which attack Camphor and other trees during the dry season, were as fast as possible removed and large numbers of trees which had been attacked treated with Carbolineum.

Dead trees were removed from plantations in all parts of the Colony.

Damage done to plantations by persons cutting wood for fuel and by grass-cutters who destroy the seedling Pines was most noticeable in the vicinity of Cheung Sha Wan, Shaukiwan, Pokfulam and Kowloon City, the Forest Guards arrested a large number of the offenders.

Protection from Fire.—The Tsing Ming Festival was on April 5th, and the Tsung Yeung on October 9th. As usual the whole of the outdoor staff of the Department assisted by 150 extra coolies, were engaged in watching for fires caused by various ceremonies at the graves in which sacrificial paper and fire-crackers are used.

Eight fires occurred on the day of the first and 8 on the day of the second festival mentioned, these were dealt with as quickly as possible and the damage to plantations was slight.

The thanks of the Department are due to the Honourable the Secretary for Chinese Affairs for lending District Watchmen to assist the forestry staff to watch for and deal with fires on both days.

10 fires occurred in plantations during the first quarter, 12 in the second, 2 in the third and 43 in the fourth, making a total of 67 for the year compared with 47 during the previous year.

The most serious of these occurred at Stanley Gap, where, before the fire could be checked, 500 Pines were killed and about 1,000 badly damaged.

To the Captain Superintendent of Police the thanks of the Department are due for allowing officers in charge of stations to engage gangs of coolies to beat out fires which would otherwise have done serious damage before foresters could be transported to the affected areas.

About 20 miles of old fire barriers were cleared in Kowloon, 17 miles in Hongkong and 5 miles at Fan Ling. these barriers proved most useful in confining fires to comparatively small areas during the year.

Forest Guards' Service.—The total number of persons arrested or proceeded against by summons for forestry offences during the year was 287, of these 252 were convicted, 20 cautioned, 5 discharged, 8 had their bail estreated and two were required to find a personal bond.

Particulars of these cases are given in Tables II and III.

Owing to the damage done to Pine Plantations in the vicinity of the village of Kau Pui Shek, an enquiry authorised by Ordinance No. 6 of 1917 was held by the Honourable the Secretary for Chinese Affairs and the Superintendent and resulted in a fine of $50 being imposed on the village.

A similar inquiry into the cutting of certain wild trees near Tung Kok Wai was held by the District Officer, North, and the Superintendent and resulted in five persons being fined a total sum of $47.

Claims amounting to $128.50 were made against 4 building contractors who were responsible for damage to roadside trees or plantations, this sum was deducted from their securities by the Public Works Department and credited to Timber Sales.

Miscellaneous Planting.— In Stanley Military Cemetery the following flowering shrubs and trees were planted, 22 Allamanda, 29 *Hibiscus Lambertianus*, 6 Archontophoenix, 2 Bougainvillea, 6 Poinciana and 1 *Bauhinia Blakeana*. The cemetery was recently placed under our care and a small annual fee is paid by Military Authorities for its upkeep.

Sixteen mixed flowering shrubs were planted on a waste space immediately in front of Aberdeen Police Station.

On a grass plot above Mount Austin Barracks, Peak Road, one *Bauhinia Blakeana* and 56 flowering shrubs were planted.

On a bare bank above the Disinfecting Station, Caine Road, 29 flowering shrubs were planted.

Seventy-nine native Azaleas which were growing in the line of proposed new roads in the Wong Nei Chong district were taken up and replanted elsewhere.

Ficus creepers and flowering shrubs were planted on the banks and grass plot by the side of the Police Station at Hung Hom.

New trees, creepers and flowering shrubs were planted in the grounds of the Water Police Station, Kowloon, and the old trees and shrubs pruned and put into good order generally.

At Cheung Chau the following trees were planted in various prominent parts of the island by the forester who is now permanently stationed there, Rhus 50, Poinciana 50, Celtis 50, Paulownia 25, Bischofia 100, Camphor 50, Albizzia 100, Tristania 238, Ficus 50, Eucalyptus 30, and Melia 4.

The shape of rockery at the junction of Garden and Lower Albert Roads was altered to conform with adjoining road alterations and was entirely replanted.

Eight hundred and seventy Ficus creepers were planted at the base of cuttings on either side of the new motor road to the Peak.

In order to give the owner of an adjoining building lot access to his property the rockery at Seymour Road had to be re-constructed and was afterwards replanted.

Forestry Service Paths.—The paths are still made great use of by pedestrians: also many times during the year they were found to be of great use for the forestry staff in getting to the scene of forest fires in the shortest possible time.

Both those in Hongkong and Kowloon were repaired during the dry season.

Two new paths, one 4,090 and the other 430 feet long were made in the vicinity of Aberdeen Reservoir in order to give easy access to the newly planted young trees of "Jak" (*Artocarpus integrifolia*).

Clearing Undergrowth around Houses.—Clearing in connection with anti-malarial measures was maintained throughout the whole year, the total area cleared amounted to 3,400,000 square feet.

Clearing for Survey Purposes.—This clearing is done in connection with surveys by the Public Works Department of proposed building sites and the lines of new roads, the total area cleared amounted to 3,990,000 square feet.

Forestry Licences, New Territories.—The total amount of fees collected during the year amounted to $4,880.47 compared with $4,926.47 in 1920.

Nurseries, Agriculture, &c.

Beacon Hill Nursery.—The whole of the stock of young trees not required for roadside or other planting was lifted, replanted, labelled and put into good order generally.

Seeds of the following were planted in beds to raise stock for use next year, *Pinus Massoniana*, *Cinnamomum Champhora*, *Bauhinia variegata*, *Tristania conferta* and *Albizzia Lebbek*.

In Plantation 9A in the vicinity of Beacon Hill Nursery an area half an acre in extent was broken up, manured and sown with seeds of Castor-Oil (*Ricinus communis*), the seed of which was obtained locally and from Honolulu, all germinated well and those plants on the dryer parts of the ground yielded a very fair crop of seed of good quality.

This experiment was made as a result of many inquiries from persons wishing to take up the growing of this plant to obtain Castor-Oil seed, for which there is said to be an increasing demand in Europe, where the seed is crushed, and the oil extracted and used as a lubricant, while the residue is made use of as a fertilizer.

The Castor-Oil plant is to be seen growing wild in and about almost every village in the New Territories, where the seeds are gathered and sold to the herb shops in Hongkong, and are used for mixing with other medicines.

Three hundred and eighty pounds of seed of *Pinus Massoniana* were collected for sowing in pits, broadcast and in nurseries, the crop of seed this year was very poor and great difficulty was experienced in obtaining the amount mentioned.

Camphor seeds collected amounted to 81 pounds.

A new nursery was formed at the back of Little Hongkong Old Village for the raising of seedling Camphors to be used in the replanting of the adjoining area of natural forest.

This area is one of the largest pieces of natural forest now remaining on the island, many of the largest trees are showing signs of decay and almost every tree is covered or partly covered with creepers; with the exception of those lining the banks of streams or giving shade to the adjoining road all trees are now being felled by a contractor who is bound to replant one Camphor for every tree felled by him.

Fan Ling Experimental Garden.—The tobacco crop was again very good, but did not mature in time to enable it to be harvested before being damaged by heavy rainstorms: the whole crop was sent to the Botanical Gardens and there made use of as an insecticide.

Onion seed was again obtained from Teneriffe and sown and resulted in a heavy crop of large and well-shaped onions.

One farmer at Ping Kong has as a result of this object lesson, commenced to grow onions on ground formerly taken up by other crops.

When visited this man stated that he made a better profit on his one onion crop than on two crops of rice.

The improved variety of Papaya fruited well, small quantities, of seed of this fruit were distributed to local farmers and gardeners.

Thirty trees of the Custard Apple (*Anona reticulata*) were purchased from near Macao and planted in the garden. In spite of the rough treatment received during the transport into Macao and from there to the garden, these trees produced about 50 large fruits of good quality.

This fruit, which always commands a good price in the local market, is very seldom grown in the New Territories, although the trees which may be procured at small cost, need little attention and the fruit is very popular among the natives.

The Bananas are now well established and produced some very fine bunches of fruits.

Twelve trees of *Citrus medica*, var. *cherocarpus* were planted. These were procured with great difficulty from near Wat Nam, Shiu Hing district. The peculiarly shaped fruits produced by these trees are treated with sugar and sold by natives as a dry preserved fruit.

A small area of heavily manured ground was sown with seeds of Castor-Oil (*Ricinus communis*) and the resulting plants grew in most cases to a height of eight to ten feet, each one bearing from half to one pound of seed of good quality.

Several consignments of the "Figs" of *Ficus retusa*, containing insects were sent to the Entomologist of the Forestry Department, Honolulu, where the insects were to be liberated with the object of assisting in the fertilization of the fruits of varieties of Ficus growing wild or planted in the reservoir catchment areas.

All bulbs of *Narcissus Tazetta* intended for export to United States of America were again inspected and certified by an officer of this Department.

Between July 16th and October 28th, 9,835 cases in 84 lots, the whole containing 951,605 bulbs were dealt with in godowns and on junks.

The bulbs were generally cleaner than those dealt with during the preceding year and only a small portion of the consignments were detained for reconditioning.

Hay Fever.

Flowers of Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) were removed from plants growing in the Peak district.

Complaints continue to be received from many householders to the effect that the pollen from this plant is the cause of severe Hay Fever.

The plants in the Peak district appear to benefit by the removal of the flowers and there is no doubt that the gradual extermination of Privet will have to be commenced in the near future.

Exchange of Seeds, &c.

The Department in indebted to the following donors of seeds, plants and Herbarium Specimens:—Director, Horticultural Section, (Mudiriya) Egypt; Professor Rock, Washington; Father Robert, Procure des Missions Etrangères; Board of Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry, Honolulu, Hawai; and Messrs. H. W. Buckbee, Rockford; K. H. Aumuller; H. Humphreys; Lam Yin; H. M. Maiden, Botanic Gardens, Sydney, and Sir Robert Ho Tung.

The following were the principal recipients:—Dr. W. M. Docters Van Leeuwen, Director of the Botanical Gardens, Buitenzorg, Java; Messrs. H. B. C. Hill, Upper Assam; C. A. Backer,

Buitenzorg, Java; E. I. Wynne-Jones, H. B. M. Yamen, Canton; M. L. Bird, Assistant Inspector, Department of Agriculture, Court-House, Vancouver, B. C.; G. W. Kynock; B. F. Cavanagh, Director, State Gardens, Gwalior, W. I.; L. Gibbs; Tsui Yuet Oi, Tsun Wan, N. T.; Tsang Hin Lam, Kang Hau, N. T.; Chan Wing On, Tsun Wan, N. T.; Lam Yin Chau, Sha Au, N. T.; Chan Kam Tong, Shui Lau Tin, N. T.; Lo Hang Shek, Ping Kong, N. T.; J. H. Kerr, Sheung Shui, N. T.; R. A. Fox, Dawson, Y. T., Canada; H. L. Chapman, Horticultural Section (Mudiriya), Egypt; U. A. Farrell; Colonel Greer; J. O. Shepherd; W. L. Funkhauser, Canton Christian College, Canton; Wu Shun, N. T.; D. Burlingham; Giannetti, Jr., Cagliari, Italy; Inspector Mcdonald; the Head-Master, Wan Tsai School and Officers in charge of Kowloon, Aberdeen, Hung Hom and No. 2 Police Stations.

STAFF.

The Acting Superintendent Mr. H. Green was appointed Superintendent on April 6th, 1920, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Superintendent, Mr. W. J. Tutcher.

Mr. B. E. G. Spinks was appointed to the new post of Supervisor in this Department on May 1st.

The Assistant Head Forester Mr. Lam Kun-yau resigned on August 8th and Mr. Chan Pui was appointed to fill the vacancy on October 1st.

H. GREEN,
Superintendent.

May, 1922.

Table I.

RAINFALL, 1921.

Botanic Gardens.

Date.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	inch.	*inch.*	*inch.*	*inch.*	*inch.*	*inch.*	*inch.*	*inch.*	*inch.*	*inch.*	*inch.*	*inch.*
1,	...	...	.04	....	...	2.14	1.44	...	.17	...	...	...
2,	...	.87	.06	...	...	...	1.12	...	.20	...	...	...
3,	.04	.33	.16	...	...	...	5.73	...	7.75	...	...	.03
4,	.12	...	.45	...	.32	...	.09	...	2.05	...	...	.05
5,	...	...	...	...	2.22	...	.07	...	4.05	...	...	...
6,	...	...	.09	...	1.65	.78	.52	...	.55	...	...	.02
7,	...	...	...	...	.41	2.23	1.75	...	.11	...	...	...
8,	...	...	...	...	.18	.02	...	3.40	.20	...	...	...
9,	...	...	...	...	.16	2.15	...	.18	.05	...	...	...
10,	...	...	...	...	6.31	.06	...	.65	.11	...	...	...
11,	...	...	.51	...	1.49	...	.22	.15	.04	...	...	...
12,	...	...	.15	...	...	.17	...	...	...	.15	...	...
13,	...	...	...	.05	...	...	...	...	.08	...	...	.05
14,	...	...	...	.10	.16	1.06	...	...	...	...	...	...
15,	...	...	...	...	1.17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16,	...	...	...	...	1.73	.42	...	...	...	...	...	...

Table I,—*Continued.*

Date.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	inch.	*inch.*	*inch.*	*inch.*	*inch.*	*inch.*	*inch.*	*inch.*	*inch.*	*inch.*	*inch.*	*inch.*
17,	...	...	...	...	.35	.70	.91	.11	.25	...	.04	.10
18,	...	...	...	...	3.40	.49	.10	...	...	...	1.20	.04
19,	...	...	...	...	.06	1.51	...	...	...	...	.06	.02
20,	...	...	...	...	.27	1.03	.09	...	.11	...	.08	.02
21,	...	...	...	...	...	1.48	...	...	...	...	...	...
22,	...	...	.06	...	2.54	...	...	...	.05	...	...	...
23,	...	...	.10	...	.19	.19	...	...	...	...	...	...
24,	...	...	1.07	...	4.21	.18	1.04	.14	...	...	...	...
25,	...	...	1.35	...	2.56	.05	.63	4.15	...	...	...	...
26,	...	...	.13	...	.96	.01	.07	1.56	...	...	.03	...
27,	...	...	.14	...	1.91	.37	...	.68	...	...	...	...
28,	...	...	.27	2.26	.88	.21	...	.65	...	...	1.02	...
29,	.12	...	.08	.60	.02	.15	.10	...	...	...	...	...
30,	...	...	.08	...	.04	1.19	...	1.35	...	...	...	...
31,	...	...	...	...	.31	...	...	2.93	...	...	...	...
Total,	.28	1.20	4.74	3.01	33.50	16.59	13.88	15.95	15.77	.15	2.43	.33

Total for the year 107.83 inches. Average for the last ten years at the Botanic Gardens —92.82 inches.
Total rainfall registered at the Hongkong Observatory for the year—97.34 inches.

Table II.

FOREST GUARDS' SERVICE: OFFENCES.

Village or District.	Block.	Compartment.	Report of													
			Pine trees stealing.	Pine tree branches stealing.	Pine tree needles stealing.	Brush-wood stealing.	Grass cutting.	Wild flower stealing.	Wild fruit stealing.	Cattle grazing in plantation.	Fern stealing.	Setting fire to plantation.	Assault on Forest Guard.	Earth cutting in plantation.	Releasing prisoner from custody of Forest Guard.
Victoria,	1	A.B.C.E.G.	1	4	...	19	1	7	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Wongneichong,	2	A.B.C.D.G.	1	3	1	10	7	4	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Shaukiwan,	3	A.B.C.D.E.F.G.	2	6	3	25	4	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	3
Tytam,	4	A.F.	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Stanley,	5	A.D.F.	...	4	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Aberdeen,	6	A.B.C.D.E.F.	6	7	1	8	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pokfulam,	7	C.B.E.F.G.	4	...	1	12	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kowloon,	8	A.B.	1	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Harbour Belt,	9	A.B.C.D.	16	41	21	4	11	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Cheungshawan,	10	...	2	...	...	1	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kanghau,	11	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
New Territories,	12	...	...	3	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	4	...	...
Total for 1921,			33	70	27	93	35	17	...	2	3	...	4	...	3
Total for 1920,			60	73	17	216	57	29	1	7	2	...	...	1	2

Table III.

POLICE COURT RESULTS.

Cases.	*1921.*	*1920.*
50 cents to $1 fine, ...	45	103
$1.50 to $2 „	43	68
$2.50 to $3 „	32	11
$4 to $5 „	41	25
$6 to $10 „	7	16
$11 to $25 „	1	5
$50 „	1	—
$120 „	—	1
1 to 4 days' imprisonment, ...	18	57
5 to 7 „ „	38	69
8 to 14 „ „	19	44
3 weeks' „	3	2
4 „ „	—	1
1 month's „	2	7
6 weeks' „	2	1
Discharges, ...	5	15
Cautions, ...	20	27
Forfeiture of Bail, ...	8	10
Personal Bond, ...	2	1
Strokes with the birch, ...	—	1
Withdrawal, ...	—	1
Total, ...	287	465

Table IV.

NURSERIES.

Locality.	*Expenses.*
Kowloon Tsai,...	$1,133.60
Fanling, ...	789.80
East Point, ...	2.40
Little Hongkong Old Village,...	60.00
Total, ...	$1,985.80

Table V.

REVENUE.

Revenue.	1921.	1920.
	$ c.	$ c.
Timber Sales,...	3,677.25	1,891.42
Sale of Plants, ...	708.00	682.10
Loan of Plants, ...	579.24	405.72
Forestry Licences,...	4,800.47	4,926.47
Inspection of Nursery Stock, ...	850.00	610.00
Interest on Current Accounts, ...	2.13	5.62
Miscellaneous Receipts,...	13.56	15.77
Fine Fund, ...	27.21	10.66
Total, ...	10,657.86	8,547.76

Table VI.

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the years 1912-1921.

Year.	Total Expenditure.	Total Revenue.	% of Revenue to Expenditure.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
1912	39,865.18	2,304.91	5.78
1913	48,745.88	8,352.06	17.13
1914	49,095.97	6,934.21	14.12
1915	49,404.56	6,871.67	13.19
1916	47,325.89	7,034.67	14 86
1917	51,253.82	7,294.49	14.23
1918	51,967.08	6,282.45	12.09
1919	51,457.65	8,307.77	16.16
1920	55,975.49	8,547.76	15.27
1921	61,428.11	10,657.86	17.35